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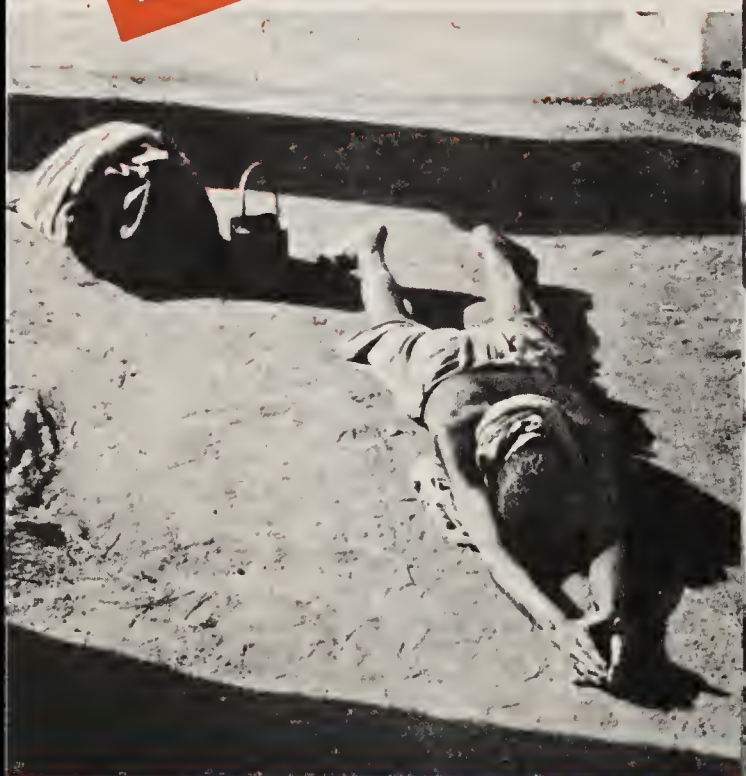
American

1344

Lepers

(uncast)

it might have  
been YOU...



**...LIVING** where and when you do now, there is one danger you are very unlikely to incur. You are very unlikely to contract leprosy.

But if you had lived almost anywhere in Europe, when, say, Richard the Lion-hearted was alive, or in New Orleans when Longfellow's Evangeline went there as an exile, or right now in Brazil, India, China, the Congo, you might have been a "leper." It is a fair guess that there are 10,000,000 people in the world with that misfortune.

This leaflet tells you what is being done for these people who "might have been you" by one of the organizations that is now offering them LIFE in every sense of that word.



"Lepers" are just everyday people — with leprosy. Leprosy (or Hansen's disease) is a germ disease that anyone may catch—though by no means easily, as we used to think. A "leper" may be a man desperately asking for a home, or a laughing girl on a see-saw.



The greatest bitterness of Hansen's disease is the fear of the patient by his former associates. This is absurd and needless, because leprosy is only mildly contagious. Therefore the first gift a Christian mission of today gives a leprosy patient is **COMMUNITY**. It gathers him into a kind of village. No one fears him. He joins with friends in creative living — like these Koreans making "holiday bread."





Next the Christian mission gives him MEDICAL TREATMENT. Besides the food, warmth, exercise and general conditions of health with which it surrounds him, it injects into his body, the older and still basic treatment for leprosy, chaulmoogra oil, or carefully administers the new sulfa drugs to those patients for whom they prove tolerable and effective.

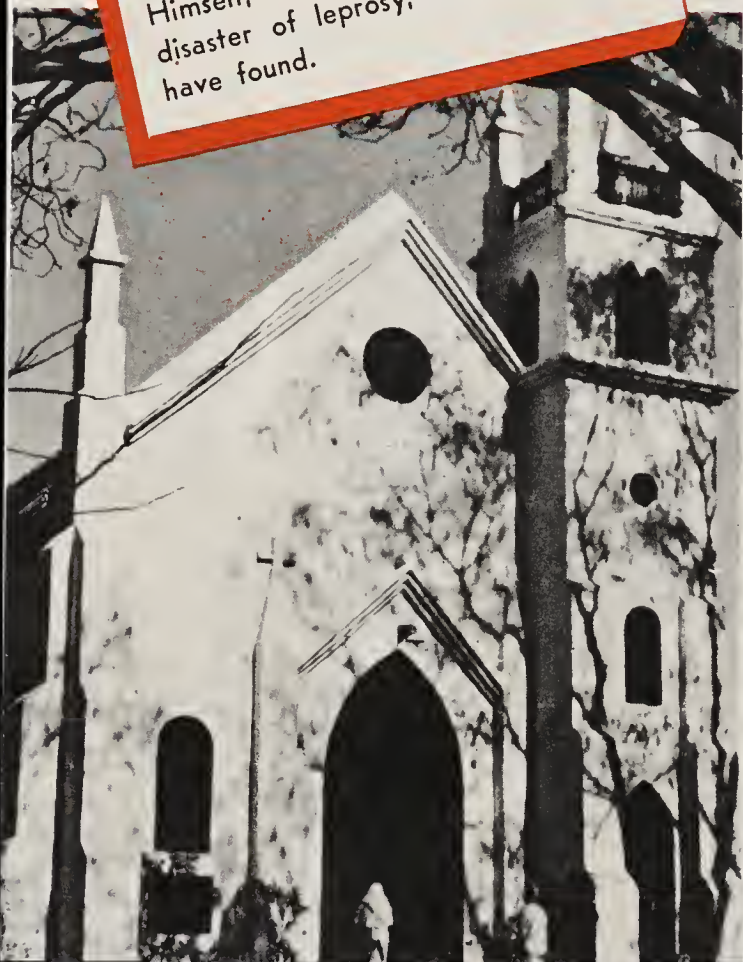


The third gift that the Christian mission offers is WORK. This has almost medical value. It keeps the blood-stream vigorous. It keeps the mind from brooding and self-pity. It restores to the person another of his great losses: self-esteem. What he can do is again wanted, valued, even imperatively needed, by the social group of which he is a part.





The fourth and greatest gift of the Christian mission is the **GIFT OF JESUS CHRIST**. In such a church as this, built with their own hands, people cracked by the hammer blow of leprosy find life made whole again; life temporal and eternal; life in God Himself, which, without the apparent disaster of leprosy, they might not have found.



Of all that can be done for leprosy patients today the best is saving the CHILDREN. When found very young, they can often be relieved quickly. When found still uninfected and removed from exposure, they can be kept smiling and free. These are Christian citizens of tomorrow.

To this end, the Christian mission takes care of these children in separate homes near but not with their parents, while missionary doctors train medical students and lay leaders to recognize infected children back in the villages and bring them quickly under treatment.





American Leprosy Missions, Inc. enables missionaries of the denominational and non-denominational boards to minister to people with Hansen's disease. It aids approximately 140 stations in 29 countries. Your contributions of prayer and financial help will give life to these forgotten people. Annuities and bequests are always welcome.

### **AMERICAN LEPROSY MISSIONS, INC.**

(formerly American Mission to Lepers, Incorporated)

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